

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0658

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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TAGS: EAID, UNDP

SUBJECT: CERP 0008-EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF STATE 072386

1. UNDP ACTIVITIES IN BARBADOS MONITORED BY THAT

ORGANIZATION'S OFFICE IN PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD/TOBAGO, WHILE PROGRAMS IN GRENADA AND THE FIVE QUASI-INDEPENDENT WEST INDIES ASSOCIATED STATES (WIAS) ARE ADMINISTERED FROM GEORGETOWN, GUYANA. (THE GEORGETOWN OFFICE IS THEORETICALLY "SENIOR" TO THE PORT OF SPAIN OFFICE.) THIS ARRANGEMENT DRASTICALLY REDUCES BOTH OUR CONTACT WITH UNDP MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL, AND TO A LESSER EXTENT OUR DETAILED KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR PROGRAMS AND IMPLEMENTATION PROBLEMS.

2. ANSWERS TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS POSED IN THE REFTEL:

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(A) IN SPITE OF OUR FREQUENT VISITS TO THE WIAS AND GRENADA, WE CAN PROVIDE ONLY LIMITED INFORMATION ON THE NATURE AND DEGREE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN UNDP STAFF AND THE ISLAND GOVERNMENTS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE HEARD LITTLE COMPLAINT FROM THE WIAS AND GRENADIAN GOVERNMENTS WITH REGARD TO UNDP ACTIVITIES AND COORDINATION PROCEDURES. (THIS CONTRASTS WITH FREQUENT COMPLAINTS ABOUT OTHER AID DONORS.) REGARDING BARBADOS, THE GOB REMAINS HIGHLY SATISFIED WITH THE TYPE AND DEGREE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN IT AND UNDP PERSONNEL STATIONED IN PORT-OF-SPAIN.

(?) AS A RESULT OF THE MINUTE SIZE OF THE WIAS GOVERNMENTS AND THE GOB, THERE IS A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ISLAND HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AND THE UNDP OFFICIALS STATIONED IN GEORGETOWN. THIS GENERALLY OBVIATES THE USUAL PROBLEMS OF COORDINATION FOUND ELSEWHERE. IN BARBADOS, CONTACT BETWEEN UNDP AND GOB OFFICIALS IS HANDLED THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FINANCE ALTHOUGH THE UNDP PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE HAS EASY ACCESS TO THE BARBADIAN PRIME MINISTER.

(C) OBVIOUSLY UNDP FINANCIAL RETRENCHMENT WILL AFFECT THE FUTURE LEVEL OF PROGRAMMING BOTH ON BARBADOS AND THE SMALLER ISLANDS. TO WHAT EXTENT AND HOW THIS WILL ALTER THE FOCUS OF THE UN ASSISTANCE EFFORT HERE IS NOT YET KNOWN TO US.

(D) AGAIN, WITH OUR VERY LIMITED CONTACT WITH UNDP PERSONNEL WE ARE UNABLE TO COMMENT MEANINGFULLY.

(E) IN GENERAL, UNDP PROJECTS IN THE AREA APPEAR WELL SUITED TO LOCAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS AND PROMPT ACTION IS USUALLY TAKEN TO RESTRUCTURE OR ELIMINATE MARGINAL OR MISDIRECTED PROJECTS. (FOR EXAMPLE, A GOVERNMENT PHYSICAL PLANNING PROJECT ON ST. LUCIA WAS RECENTLY RESTRUCTURED INTO ONE OF ECONOMIC PLANNING TO BETTER MEET THE FELT NEEDS OF THE GOVERNMENT THERE.)

(F) THE UNDP PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE FROM PORT OF SPAIN CALLS ON THE AMBASSADOR AND EMBASSY STAFF WHEN VISITING BRIDGETOWN. WHENEVER POSSIBLE, EMBASSY OFFICERS VISITING THE ASSOCIATED STATES CONTACT UNDP ASSIGNED PERSONNEL. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, ROUTINELY SEE UNDP PROJECT DOCUMENTATION. WE ARE LIMITED IN ANY COORDINATION ROLE BY THE FACT THE USG HAS NO UNCLASSIFIED

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BILATERAL AID EFFORT IN BARBADOS, GRENADA OR THE WIAS.

(G) WITHIN EASTERN CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS THE TALENTS OF WOMEN ARE BEING INCREASINGLY UTILIZED ALTHOUGH DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX IS STILL A PROBLEM. UNDP PROGRAMS CLEARLY AIM TO FOSTER THEIR IMPROVED UTILIZATION. TALENT AND EXPERTISE IS IN SUCH SHORT SUPPLY, PARTICULARLY IN THE SMALLER ISLANDS, THAT GOVERNMENTS HOPEFULLY WILL IMPROVE THEIR RECORDS

IN THIS REGARD AND BEGIN TO MORE EFFECTIVELY USE HUMAN RESOURCES
IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER THE INDIVIDUAL IS MALE OR FEMALE.

3. THE EMBASSY SEES FEW PROBELMS WITH THE NATURE AND EFFICACY
OF PRESENT UNDP EFFORTS IN THIS AREA. THE LARGEST PROBLEM WE
SEE CONCERNS COORDINATION BETWEEN UNDP, OTHER AID DONORS AND
THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (CDB). BRITISH AND CANADIAN
AI TO EASTERN CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS IS ADMINISTERED FROM
BRIDGETOWN AND THE CDB IS LOCATED HERE. COMBINING AND RE-
LOCATING THE TWO UNDP OFFICES IN BRIDGETOWN WOULD GREATLY
FACILITATE CLOSER COOPERATION, FORMAL AND INFORMAL COORDINATION
AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE. SUCH A TRANSFER WOULD PROVE ADDITIONALLY
VALUABLE IN VIEW OF THE IMPENDING ASSIGNMENT OF A SMALL AID
STAFF TO THIS EMBASSY.
BRITTON

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